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✓ DPR
file
no

28 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/PR

VIA : ~~DD/PR~~ 25X1A

SUBJECT : The Chances for an Improvement in Sino-Soviet Relations--the [REDACTED] Debate

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1. The NIOs, on occasion, select special subjects on which to brief the DCI. [REDACTED] recently decided to present him with a Sino-Soviet briefing, and to do it in the format the DCI prefers--namely, someone arguing pro and someone arguing con. [REDACTED] was asked to be the devil's advocate and take the pro; [REDACTED] was asked to take the con. The event, scheduled for one hour on 27 October in the DCI Conference Room, ran over for an additional half hour, as the DCI showed interest in the discussion.

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2. [REDACTED] presentation was timely and sensible, considering the role he was assigned. Harry's was outstanding.

3. After hearing the consensus around the table--i.e., that some amelioration of the dispute is in the cards, but not soon--the DCI asked the following questions:

--Is there known to be a new generation of Chinese officials who might want to move toward the Russians? (Such a group was not detectable.)

--If the US were to meet all of Peking's preconditions for full normalization of relations, how would the Russians react? (The consensus was that they wouldn't like it and would view it as an anti-Soviet American act.)

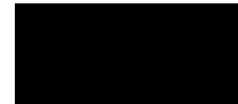
--What is known about Hua's own feelings, "in earlier years," about the Russians? (Harry said that Hua in the past had been critical of Soviet "trade policies" with China.)

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--Why had not the apparent leftist Vice Foreign Minister Wang Hai-jung (Mao's grandniece) been brought down with the "gang of four"? (I said that a wall poster in the Foreign Ministry earlier this year indicated that Wang had fallen out with Mme. Mao and had even criticized Mme. Mao. The DCI, who has had discussions with Wang on several occasions in Peking, said that "that takes care of that one.")

4. The DD/CI was impressed by Harry, and the DCI indicated his personal appreciation several times afterward. Other DD/I components' reps, the DD/O man, and the State and DIA reps also responded favorably to Harry's presentation.



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